STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS FROM THE CHURCHES.	Baptised	Rec'd by Letter	Dism'd by Letter	Restored	Excluded
Clear Creek	R. G. Hewlett, D. J. Burgess, C. P. Barkesdale	...	...	1	1	3
Good Hope	A. W. Mideleton, J. A. Thornton, J. A. Payne	6	5	13	...	4
Yocona	J. F. Moore, A. G. Browning, H. W. Rocket	2	4	29	...	1
Mt. Gilead	J. J. Sawyer, H. Skelton, R. N. Boydston	10	14	...	1	...
Bethany	John H. Collins	...	3	8	...	1
Bynum Creek	W. W. Jolley, R. Fowler, Isaac Rodgers	...	...	4	...	...
Center Hill	T. H. Moore, J. H. Hanks	15	11	4	...	...
Oxford	W. H. Carothers, J. B. Gambrel	...	3	1	...	...
Eureka	S. R. Lamb, S. P. Woodruff	...	12	3	...	...
South Oxford	R. M. Vernor, J. W. Stokes, T. R. Collins	4	5	...	...	...
Water Valley	W Dupuy, B H Collins, J J Higginbotham, C Crosby,	5	9	9	...	...
Pleasant Ridge	J. W. Higginbotham, W. M. Hare	4	2	5	...	2
Providence	T. V. Hunt, A. J. Head	18	9	4	...	...
Yellow Leaf	J. Ferguson, J. M. Gooch, W. Bowles	3	1	...	1	...
Antioch	Sam'l W. Evans, sr., Sam'l D. Johns	...	2	12	...	...
Black Jack	Not represented	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE.

RCHES,	Baptised	Rec'd by Letter	Dism'd by Letter	Restored	Excluded
sdale	...	...	1	1	3
yne	6	5	13	...	4
ket	2	4	29	...	1
	10	14	...	1	...
	...	3	8	...	1
	...	...	4	...	...
	15	11	4	...	...
	...	3	1	...	...
	...	12	3	...	...
	4	5	...	...	...
, C Crosby,	5	9	9	...	...
	4	2	5	...	2
	18	9	4	...	...
	3	1	...	...	1
	...	2	12	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...

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MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Oxford Baptist Association

HELD WITH THE

EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH,

IN PANOLA COUNTY, MISS.,

On the 4th, 5th and 6th of October, 1873.

Sherwood Mod. 1

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY.
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PARTIAL CATALOGUE

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OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

OXFORD BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH,

IN PANOLA COUNTY, MISS.,

ON THE 4TH, 5TH AND 6TH OF OCTOBER, 1873.

MEMPHIS, TENN.:
SOUTHERN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY.
1873.

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RROW, Oxford.

MINUTES.

EUREKA, PANOLA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI,
Saturday, October 4, 1873.

The delegates from the various churches composing the Oxford Baptist Association convened in session with the Eureka Baptist Church on Saturday, October 4, 1873, at 10½ o'clock A. M.

Owing to the indisposition of Eld. J. J. Sawyer, who was appointed at the last session to preach the Introductory Sermon, it was preached by Eld. J. B. Gambrell. Text 22d verse, 6th chap. Romans. "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

After a recess of one hour the delegates reassembled for business.

A hymn was sung and prayer offered by Eld. W. Dupuy.

The letters from the various churches were then read by Elds. J. B. Gambrell and R. G. Hewlett, and messengers' names enrolled.

On motion, proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, Elds. R. H. Hall and J. J. Sawyer acting as tellers, which resulted in the choice of Eld. R. G. Hewlett as Moderator, C. P. Barksdale, Clerk, I. A. Thornton, Treasurer.

The Moderator then declared the body duly organized and ready for business.

A Committee on Devotional Exercises was then appointed, consisting of the deacons of Eureka Church, and by request, Eld. J. B. Gambrell was added to the committee.

On motion, the regular order of business, as adopted at the last session, was again adopted.

Petitionary letters were then called for. None presented.

Called for corresponding messengers from other bodies.

Eld. R. H. Hall, general agent for the Orphans' Home, and Eld. James Nelson, agent for Mississippi College and Messenger from the Baptist State Convention, presented themselves and were received and invited to seats.

Reports of Messengers to corresponding bodies were then called for.

Eld. J. B. Gambrell attended the Chickasaw Association and reported a most harmonious session, with about 220 accessions during the past year. He also attended the Baptist State Convention held at Aberdeen, and reported a great and glorious work, though not largely attended.

Appointed messengers to corresponding bodies, as follows:

Chickasaw Association—Elds. R. G. Hewlett, T. R. Williams, J. J. Sawyer, W. Dupuy, J. B. Gambrell and Bro. C. P. Barksdale.

Coldwater Association—Eld. J. B. Gambrell and Bro. W. H. Carothers.

Yallobusha Association—Elds. T. R. Williams and J. J. Sawyer.

Tippah Association—Elds. R. G. Hewlett, J. J. Sawyer and Bro. W. S. Bunch.

Sunflower Association—Elds. T. R. Williams, T. H. Moore, J. J. Sawyer, R. G. Hewlett, S. D. Johns, and Bros. W. L. Bunch, J. L. Turnage, C. P. Barksdale.

Baptist State Convention—Elds. J. J. Sawyer, W. Dupuy, R. G. Hewlett, T. R. Williams, J. B. Gambrell, T. H. Moore, J. L. Johnson, S. D. Johns, and Bros. J. L. Turnage, C. A. Barry, C. P. Barksdale, W. H. Carothers, W. S. Bunch, C. Crosby, J. W. Higginbotham, A. T. Bryant, Jesse Humphries, S. Hale and S. Bobo.

Southern Baptist Convention—Elds. J. B. Gambrell, R. G. Hewlett, J. L. Johnson, T. R. Williams, and Bros. J. L. Turnage, W. H. Carothers, W. G. Higginbotham and C. P. Barksdale.

Miscellaneous business was then taken up, when Eld. R. G. Hewlett, according to previous notification, offered the following amendment to the Constitution: "The delegates present representing churches shall, during the session, present their letters of correspondence, which shall state their appointment," etc.

On motion of Eld. W. Dupuy the amendment was adopted.

On motion, Elds. J. B. Gambrell and T. R. Williams were appointed a special committee to report on the Orphans' Home.

The following resolution of the Baptist State Convention was read by Eld. J. B. Gambrell:

Resolved, That the Convention request each Association in the State to elect one of a Board of Visitors, whose privilege it shall be to attend the annual meetings of the Board of Trustees of Mississippi College on commencement week, witness the exercises of the school, and make suggestions to the Board of Trustees, thereby bringing the school more nearly under the control of the people and in closer relation with them.

On motion, the Moderator was appointed as one of a Board of Visitors from this body.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises reported Eld. R. H. Hall to preach in the Methodist Church at 11 o'clock to-morrow morning; Eld. W. Dupuy in the Baptist Church at the same hour, on the subject of Foreign Missions, according to previous appointment, and Eld. James Nelson in the Baptist Church to-morrow evening at early candle-light.

On motion, adjourned until Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Eld. T. R. Williams.

SABBATH EXERCISES.

Services in the Methodist Church by Eld. R. H. Hall. Text: Luke, 17th chapter and 5th verse. "And the Apostles said unto the Lord, increase our faith."

Also services in the Baptist Church by Eld. W. Dupuy, who had been previously appointed to preach a missionary sermon sometime during the session. Text: Mark, 16th chapter and 15th verse. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

After services, a collection was taken up for Home and Foreign Missions, amounting to $20.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Eld. James Nelson preached to a large and attentive audience on the subject of calls to the ministry. Text: Luke, 9th chapter, from the 47th verse to the close.

SECOND DAY.

MONDAY MORNING, Oct. 6th, 1873.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. After singing a hymn, prayer was offered by Eld. J. B. Gambrell.

The subject of miscellaneous business was again resumed.

It was moved by Eld. J. B. Gambrell, that this Association appoint a standing committee to report on Temperance; the first report to be made during the present session of this body. Carried. Appointed J. J. Sawyer and J. L. Turnage, to report during this session.

Appointed the following Finance Committee: C. Crosby, S. D. Pollard, E. Leigh.

Called for and received the report of the Executive Board. (Appendix A.)

Appointed the following Executive Board: Clear Creek, Eld. R. G. Hewlett; Good Hope, S. D. Pollard; Yocona, Eld. T. R. Williams; Mount Gilead, R. M. Boydston; Bethany, H. E. Draper; Bynum's Creek, G. O. Reynolds; Center Hill, W. A. Bagwell; Oxford, W. H. Carothers; Eureka, S. P. Woodruff; South Oxford, R. M. Varner; Water Valley, C. Crosby; Pleasant Ridge, J. W. Higginbotham; Providence, A. T. Bryant; Yellow Leaf, Jesse Humphries; Antioch, Eld. S. D. Johns. Additional members—W. G. Higginbotham, S. J. Lock, E. B. Holcomb, W. S. Mayberry and C. P. Barksdale.

Appointed Elds. W. Dupuy and J. J. Sawyer to write a letter of correspondence.

Called for report on Foreign Missions. Pending the adoption of which, interesting speeches were made by Elds. James Nelson and J. D. Gambrell. A collection was then taken up, amounting to $12.00 cash, and $116.00 in pledges. This amount to go for the support of Bro. Simmons in China. The report was adopted. (Appendix B).

Called for report on Sabbath Schools. The committee not being ready, were granted further time.

Called for report on Publications, and on motion to adopt, the subject was discussed by Elds. Gambrell and Dupuy, after which the report was adopted. (Appendix C.)

By request of Eld. M. P. Lowrey, Mississippi editor of "The Baptist," Eld. J. B. Gambrell represented the interests of that paper in the Association.

Called for report on Domestic Missions. The committee not being ready, were granted further time.

Called for report on Ministerial Education, which was read and thoroughly discussed by Eld. James Nelson, after which the report was adopted, and a collection taken up amounting to $356.00. (Appendix D.)

Eld. J. H. Collins being recognized as a visiting brother, was invited to a seat in the body.

Called for report of Special Committee on Orphans' Home, pending the adoption of which the hour of preaching arrived, when the Association adjourned to 1 o'clock P. M.

Eld. R. G. Hewlett then preached to a large and attentive congregation on the subject of Ministerial Education according to previous appointment; text, 15th verse, 2nd Chapter 2nd Timothy: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

MONDAY, 1 o'clock P. M.

Called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Eld. R. M. Hall.

Resumed the report on Orphans' Home, when the subject was discussed by Elds. R. H. Hall and J. B. Gambrell, and report adopted. (Appendix E).

A collection was taken up for the benefit of the Home, and also for the Endowment.

Report on Domestic Missions was again called for. Report read and adopted without discussion. (Appendix F).

Report on Sabbath Schools read and adopted without discussion. (Appendix G).

Called for report on Temperance, and pending its adoption, speeches were made by J. L. Turnage and J. B. Gambrell. The report was then adopted. (Appendix H).

Called for and received Treasurer's report. (Appendix I).

Called for and received Finance report. (Appendix J).

Letter of Correspondence read and approved. (Appendix K).

The following standing Committees were appointed:

Foreign Missions—J. B. Gambrell and W. H. Carothers.

Sabbath Schools—J. B. Holcombe and J. L. Turnage.

Publications—T. R. Williams and W. H. Carothers.

Ministerial Education—W. Dupuy and T. H. Moore.

Temperance—J. J. Sawyer and J. H. Collins.

Appointed the next meeting of the Association to be held with the pleasant Ridge Church, five miles west of Taylor's Depot, on the Mississippi Central Railroad.

Appointed W. Dupuy to preach the Introductory Sermon.

The following resolution was then read and adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association are due to the members of Eureka Church and the citizens of the vicinity for their kindness and hospitality to the delegates during the present session. Also to the Methodist Brethren for the use of their house of worship on Sabbath.

Ordered that the collection taken up on Sunday be equally divided between Domestic and Foreign Missions.

Ordered the Clerk to have as many minutes printed as the funds in his hands will obtain.

Called the roll and absentees marked.

Adjourned to meet at Pleasant Ridge Church, five miles west of Taylor's Depot, Mississippi Central Railroad, on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October, 1874.

Sang the hymn: "My Christian friends in bonds of love, etc," and extended the parting hand. Prayer by Eld. S. D. Johns. Benediction by the Moderator.

R. G. HEWLETT, Moderator.

C. P. BARKSDALE, Clerk.

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Eld. S. D. Johns.

ETT, Moderator.

APPENDIX.

[A]

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Your Executive Board has had one or two meetings about the close of last year, and the beginning of the present year, but having no funds in the treasury for Domestic Missions, and failing to find a preacher competent to perform missionary labor that was willing to preach alone upon *faith*, we have nothing to report in reference to work done in the Home Field. There has, however, $79.00 passed through the hands of the Chairman of the Board to the Domestic and Indian Mission Board at Marion, Ala., collected on the subscription raised at the Association last year for that Board. Also about $350.00 has been raised and expended during the past Associational year in maintaining our young Brethren Rockett and Williams at school at Clinton.

Respectfully submitted,

R. G. HEWLETT, Chairman.

[B]

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

That it is the duty of the Church of Jesus Christ, as she has opportunity and ability, to extend the influence of the gospel of Christ, and enlarge the borders of his kingdom, until it shall be as extensive as the world, must be apparent to every individual who is familiar with the teachings of the New Testament, and receive it as their guide in all things pertaining to this life, as well as the life to come. Our Savior has said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," and "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing, etc., and lo, I am withyou alway even unto the end of the world." We are assured that it is "by the foolishness of preaching that God saves them that believe," and that "He that calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved, but how shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed; and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard; and how shall they hear without a preacher; and how shall they preach except they be sent?" "So faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." And as they who "sin without law shall perish without law," it is apparent that the gospel preached is the only hope of a world that lies in sin and ruin. It

is the duty of the Church of Christ, as it is the "light of the world and the salt of the earth," to let that light shine into the dark regions beyond, so let that savory influence extend unto those "who sit in the regions of the shadow of death." The Master has told us that "the field is the word," so the labors of his church are not to cease until the good news of salvation is carried to earth's remotest bounds; until the gospel of the kingdom is preached in all the world for a witness to all nations. How solemn the thought that there is but one remedy to save fallen man from sinking into hell forever, and that *we* have the remedy in our hands, and yet we are careless and neglectful about sending it to those who have it not. What dread responsibilities are ours? How shall *we* act so as to clear our skirts of the blood of all men, and stand fully acquitted before the Master in the coming day. The Lord has recently, in a most wonderful manner, opened the doors of all the nations of the earth to the admission of the gospel, and He is now, by the indication of his providence, as well as by the teachings of his word, calling upon us to send the bread of eternal life to the perishing millions of earth. Millions who, without *that* bread, must soon be forever beyond the reach of hope and mercy. Much has been done; much is now doing; but alas! how little is all this *in comparison* with what yet remains to be done before we will have fully discharged our duty to Christ and to the world in this matter. We receive much good news from distant heathen lands in reference to the progress of the *good cause* that is calculated to cheer our hearts and encourage us to continue to work; while we also receive much information in reference to the degraded and benighted condition of millions of our race that should act as a stimulus to arouse us from our unconcern and inactivity, and induce us to come fully and entirely "up to the help of the Lord against the mighty." Brethren, it is high time that we should awake out of sleep, and work the works of Him that has called us while it is day, knowing that the night will soon come in which no man can work. Whatsoever our hands find to do, let us do it with our might, "for there is no work, nor service, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave whither we go,"

"For darkness, death, and lone despair,
Reign in continual silence there."

Respectfully,

R. G. HEWLETT, Chairman.

[C]

REPORT ON PUBLICATIONS.

Your Committee on Publications beg leave to report: That from an observation of the tendency on the part of some of the Baptist papers to depart from the distinctive principles of the denomination, while some few adhere tenaciously to them, we would recommend that such as stand firm in this trying hour should be liberally sup-

ported. The Baptist, of Memphis, our own State organ, we conceive to be sound in the faith, and merits the support of every Baptist in this Association. The Mississippi Department, edited by our esteemed Bro. Lowrey, is ably conducted and sound in all its parts.

Kind Words, published under the auspices of the Domestic and Indian Mission and Sunday School Board, we most cordially recommend as worthy to be supported, and placed in the hands of the little ones, to aid them in their Sunday School lessons and lead them in the ways of righteousness.

The Home and Foreign Journal should be regarded as a necessity in the hands of every Missionary Baptist. It is full of information and very cheap.

The Orphans' Home Banner is also worthy the patronage of our brethren. It gives as necessary information in regard to the Home, and to support it is to support the Home. One dollar per year. Let us all subscribe for it, and thus aid the fatherless little ones.

Respectfully,

T. H. MOORE, Chairman.
S. D. JOHNS.

[D]

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

We feel an increased interest in the subject of Ministerial Education. We regard it a settled question that our rising ministers should be educated, to meet their great responsibilities at this time. The people are educating, and the ministers must not be behind. This we think is generally admitted, and in some degree felt by our people. Our Association has been doing a very good work in this cause for the past few years. Several hundred dollars has been spent in helping the young brethren of our body in prosecuting their studies at Clinton. The present state of this work demands that each Association take hold of and attend to the education of its young preachers. It is hoped we will do our duty in this matter in the future as well as in the past.

We have in this Association young ministers who can be greatly benefited by a few years at school. They should be urged to exert themselves to the utmost to educate themselves, and necessity requires help with pecuniary aid.

Respectfully submitted, J. B. GAMBRELL.

[E]

REPORT ON ORPHANS' HOME.

We, your special committee to whom was referred the matter of the Orphan' Home, beg leave to report as follows: We have made inquiry, and investigated the matter in hand so far as it has been in our power, in the brief time allotted to us, and are glad that we

can report favorably. We are glad to know that the prospects of the Home are brighter now than at any time in the past few years; that its friends are more hopeful and ready to go to work for it; that it is now in the hands of men fully qualified to manage its interests to the best advantage to the denomination, and we feel assured that everything contributed to the Home will be faithfully and systematically appropriated and applied. We feel no hesitancy in saying that, under its present management, it is well worthy of the confidence and support of our people. A strong effort is making to make the Home self-sustaining, and from the plan submitted to us to accomplish this end, we are satisfied that to insure success we only need the smiles of heaven and the favor of our brethren.

There are now at the Home about eighty-six orphans, with applications already made sufficient to tax the Institution to the utmost of its ability for several months to come, though they hope soon to be able to care for one hundred and fifty, if our brethren enter heartily into its support. These being our views, we would respectfully offer the following resolutions to your body for your consideration and adoption:

Resolved, That we cordially recommend the Institution known as the Orphans' Home, located at Lauderdale, in our State, (having for its object the protection, care, support and education of the destitute orphans of our State,) as well worthy of the kind consideration, confidence and support of all Christians, especially of Baptists, to whom this glorious work has been committed more particularly than to any other denomination in our State.

Resolved, That we urge our people from a sense of Christian duty, to support this Institution by freely contributing to it both their means and their influence.

Resolved, That, as the Orphans' Home Banner, gotten up by the orphan boys in the Home, is a paper well worth the subscription, and at the same time it is a standing advertisement for the Home, and brings a revenue into its treasury, we do urge upon our people the importance of putting it in the hands of every family.

Resolved, That we heartily commend our esteemed brother, Eld. R. H. Hall, who is agent for the Home, and hope he may everywhere be cordially received and aided in his good work.

Respectfully,

J. B. GAMBRELL.

[F]

REPORT ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

BRETHREN—Do we not say by our actions in regard to this work: "It is a vain thing to serve God?" It is possible we have come to the conclusion that if God wants the people that are living in the destitute portions of our Association saved, that He will save them? There are many places in the bounds of our little Association where the cry is heard: "Send us the gospel." Shall we turn

that the prospects of
in the past few years;
to go to work for it;
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ation, and we feel as-
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teemed brother, Eld.
hope he may every-
od work.

B. GAMBRELL.

IONS.
egard to this work:
ple we have come to
hat are living in the
that He will save
f our little Associa-
el." Shall we turn

a deaf ear to all this, and continue to neglect our duty? May God forbid, and let *us* forbid it from this time forth.

T. R. WILLIAMS.

[G]

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We deem it unnecessary to enter upon any elaborate discussion of the importance of Sunday Schools. Their importance must be obvious to every thoughtful mind, and can only be measured by the importance of the word of God which they teach. In our Sunday Schools the rising generation are to be trained to piety and usefulness. We therefore urge our people to be diligent in this great work, where all can work for the Lord. We urge our people to have Baptist Sunday Schools for the same reason that they organize and support Baptist churches, that the pure word may be taught and kept unmixed with error and the traditions of men.

W. H. CAROTHERS.

[H]

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Temperance is truly beneficial to each and every religious institution, and intemperance is one of the greatest evils. We should therefore guard against intemperance as much as possible by encouraging total abstinence from the use of it as a beverage. Habakkuk, the prophet, tells us that, "Woe is he that putteth his bottle to make his neighbor drunk," and there are numbers of passages of Scripture that refer to it in like manner. It is one of the commands that we should "touch not, taste not, handle not the unclean thing." It is therefore the duty of every follower of our Master to oppose the evil influence of intemperance, and to promote the cause of temperance in every way possible.

Respectfully,

J. L. TURNAGE.

[I]

TREASURER'S REPORT.

D. J. BURGES, Treasurer, *in account with Oxford Baptist Association.*

1872.		*Dr.*
Received from Finance Committee, Minutes		$ 56 50
" " " " Domestic Missions		25 00
" " different sources, Ministerial Education		355 00
" " Jesse Humphries, Miss. College		25 00
1873.		
" " Mrs. S. M. Burt for Dom. Missions		2 00
Total		$463 50

1872.		Cr.
Paid W. H. Carothers, Minutes	$ 56 50	
" H. W. Rockett, Min. Education	200 00	
" S. P. Williams, " "	170 00	
" M. T. Martin, Miss. College	25 00	
" M. T. Sumner, D. and I. Mission	2 00	$453 50
Balance in Treasury		$10 00

[J]

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Amount received from churches for printing minutes	$ 60 50
" " " Yellow Leaf for Orphans' Home	9 45
" " " Eld. H. W. Middleton for H. Missions	5 00
" " " " " " " " In. Missions	5 00
" " " " " " " " Print. Min'ts	50

Signed,

C. CROSBY,
E. G. LEIGH,
S. D. POLLARD, } Finance Committee.

[K]

To the various Bodies with Whom we Correspond:

DEAR BRETHREN—This annual session of our Body met with the Eureka Church, Panola county, Miss. This Association consists of fifteen churches, the most of which are in a flourishing condition. Many of our churches have been greatly revived, and we feel that we have abundant reason to be thankful to the Great Head of the church for the unmerited grace conferred upon us. We received by baptism 145; by letter 103; total in fellowship, 1034. Our next session will be held with the Pleasant Ridge Church, five miles west of Taylor's Depot, on Mississippi Central Railroad, Lafayette county, commencing on Saturday before the first Lord's day in October, 1874. We have appointed delegates to your bodies, and respectfully solicit you to continue in correspondence with us.

W. DUPUY, Chairman.

Cr.

.....	$ 56 50	
.....	200 00	
.....	170 00	
.....	25 00	
.....	2 00	$453 50
.....		$10 00

IMITTEE.

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s' Home.....	9 45
or H. Missions..	5 00
" In. Missions	5 00
" Print. Min'ts	50

Finance Committee.

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UPUY, Chairman.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be called the Oxford Baptist Association, which shall meet annually. The object of this union shall be to cultivate fraternal intercourse and love between the churches composing this body, and to unite their efforts in the great work of advancing the Redeemer's kingdom. In the prosecution of these objects, the dissemination of the gospel by missionary operations, both at home and abroad, shall receive their encouragement, fostering care and support. It shall also be the aim of this Association to promote the cause of Sabbath Schools; also, the interests of general education, and more especially the education of the ministry. All Christian and charitable enterprises shall receive their encouragement, among which the support of superannuated and worn out ministers will receive especial attention.

ART. 2. Each church belonging to this Association shall be entitled to three Representatives until the number reaches fifty, and one delegate for every additional fifty; provided, in no case any church shall have more than five delegates.

ART. 3. The delegates present representing churches shall, during the session, present their letters of correspondence, which must state their appointment, together with the number of members in fellowship; the number baptized; received by letter; restored; dismissed by letter; excluded and died during the year.

ART. 4. Any church of this Association failing to represent herself at one meeting, will be expected to state the reason thereof at the next meeting; and if any church thus failing at two successive meetings, the Association may consider her dropped from her number, or may appoint a committee to inquire into the cause of such failure.

ART. 5. Other churches approving our Articles of Faith, and desiring to live and act in fellowship with us, may be admitted into this body by signifying their approval and desire by delegates and letters.

ART. 6. This Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by ballot at each annual meeting, as soon as the letters from the churches are read and the names of the delegates enrolled. A majority of votes cast being necessary to an election.

ART. 7. Membership in this Association shall be essential to eligibility to any office within the body.

ART. 8. The same individual shall not be chosen Moderator more than three years in succession.

ART. 9. This Association shall have no power to adopt rules, or institute proceedings that shall infringe upon the independence or rights of churches; but it may, when requested by a church in its letter of correspondence, and not otherwise, give advice to such body; and it may separate from such churches as are known to walk disorderly.

ART. 10. This Association may correspond by letter and messenger with other representative bodies of the Baptist denomination.

ART. 11. This Association shall, at its annual meetings, appoint an Executive Board, composed of as many members as there shall be churches represented, with five additional members living in the same vicinity, any five of whom shall constitute a quorum. Each church shall have the privilege of nominating its own member of the Board. Said Board shall elect its own officers, and shall have power to transact the business of the Association, when not in session, and for this purpose shall meet as often as its Chairman shall deem necessary. An annual report of the proceedings of the Board shall be made to the Association.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular meeting, by a majority of two-thirds of the members present, provided the proposition for change be made at a previous meeting.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

ART. 2. The Moderator shall be considered judge of order, and shall have discretionary right to call to order at any time.

ART. 3. Any member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association the same day, but at no other time.

ART. 4. The Moderator shall have the same privilege of speech as any other member of the body, provided he call some brother to the chair; but shall not be permitted to vote except in case of a tie.

ART. 5. Every motion made in order and seconded, after sufficient time for discussion, shall be by the Moderator put to the vote of the Association, a majority of whom shall govern, and the decision shall be publicly announced by the Moderator.

ART. 6. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator, and the Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person or otherwise.

ART. 7. Every member in addressing the body must confine his remarks to the subject under discussion, and no member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection.

ART. 8. The appellation brother shall be used in our addresses.

ART. 9. No member shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without leave from the Association, nor more than once until all have had an opportunity of speaking.

ART. 10. No member shall be at liberty to absent himself during the hours of business without leave from the Moderator.

ART. 11. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Association, and submit the same for the correction of the Association at the close of each session, and to preserve a file of all proceedings of the body.

ART. 12. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys presented for Associational purposes, and pay them over by the order of the body.

ART. 13. In case of motion to suspend any rule of this Association, a vote of two-thirds shall be necessary.

ART. 14. The roll of delegates shall be called at the close of each session, and absentees without permission shall be designated upon the minutes as such, without leave from the Moderator.

DECLARATION OF FAITH.

I. OF THE SCRIPTURES.

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinion should be tried.

II. OF THE TRUE GOD.

We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, maker and supreme ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection; and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. OF THE FALL OF MAN.

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression, fell from that holy and happy estate; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. OF THE WAY OF SALVATION.

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who, by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin; honored the Divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies, with Divine perfections; He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

V. OF JUSTIFICATION.

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him, is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through Faith in the Redeemer's blood, by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other spiritual blessing needful for time and for eternity.

VI. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION.

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

VII. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION.

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.

VIII. OF ELECTION.

We believe that election is God's act of choice, or gracious purpose, according to which he calls, regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that it is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ; and that God from the beginning, before the foundation of the world, chose His people in Christ, that they should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

Having predestinated them to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself according to the good pleasure of His will, that it comprehends all the means in connection with the end, and is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humanity, thankfulness and trust in God; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to our-

selves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence; and that we can only ascertain this by the reception of, and obedience to, the gospel of Jesus Christ.

IX. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS.

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

X. OF THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL.

We believe that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from a corrupt and depraved nature, to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XI. OF A GOSPEL CHURCH.

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinance of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only Scriptural officers are Bishops, or Pastors and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Scriptures.

XII. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer into the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn, self-examination.

XIII. OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's day or Christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations; by the

devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XIV. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth.

Rom 13.1-7, Titus 3.1, 1 Pet. 2, 13.14

XV. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVI. OF THE WORLD TO COME.

We believe the end of this world is approaching; that at the appointed time Christ will descend from Heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to a final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell on principles of righteousness.

Mat 25, 31-46

STANDING ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Call for Petitionary Letters.
2. Receive Corresponding Messengers.
3. Receive Messengers to Corresponding bodies.
4. ~~Appoint Messengers to Corresponding bodies.~~
5. Miscellaneous business.
6. Appoint a Finance Committee.
7. Receive the Report of the Executive Board.
8. Appoint an Executive Board.
9. ~~Appoint a Committee to Write a Corresponding Letter.~~
10. Receive Reports of Standing Committees.
11. Receive Treasurer's Report.
12. Receive Report of Finance Committee.
13. Appoint Standing Committees.
14. ~~Receive Report of Committee on Correspondence.~~
15. ~~Appoint Delegates to the Southern and State Conventions.~~
16. Appoint the Place for next Associational Meeting.
17. Appoint a Brother to Preach an Introductory Sermon.
18. Receive Resolutions.
19. Call and Correct the Roll.
20. Call for the Reading and Correction of the Minutes.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	POSTOFFICE.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	PASTORS.	DAYS OF MEETING.	Baptized.	Rec. by Letter.	Restored.	Dis'd by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.
Clear Creek	Lafayette	Oxford	Eld R G Hewlett, J L Turnage, W S Bunch	R G Hewlett	Second	21	9	2	6	1	...	105
Oxford	Lafayette	Oxford	Eld J B Gambrell, W H Carothers	J B Gambrell	First	2	12	...	3	...	...	36
Pleasant Ridge	Lafayette	Taylor's Depot	J W Higginbotham, B W Robinson	R G Hewlett	First	21	1	...	6	4	...	78
Yellow Leaf	Lafayette	Oxford	J W Gouch	R H Whitehead	Third	2	8	1	6	3	1	47
South Oxford	Lafayette	Oxford	T R Collins, L F Lamb, J N Jones	Martin Parker	First	18	3	...	3	...	...	40
Bethany	Tallahatchie	Harrison's Station	B W Harris,* T Draper,* Robt Draper	J J Sawyer	First	13	3	...	5	2	2	53
Center Hill	Panola	Batesville	Eld T H Moore, W A Bagwell*	T H Moore	Fourth	5	...	...	6	1	1	30
Antioch	Panola	Courtland	Elds S D Johns and Washington Johnson	T H Moore	Third	11	20	...	15	2	2	105
Providence	Calhoun	Banner	A T Briant, J Q Davis	H L Johnson	Second	7	8	...	...	2	1	73
Good Hope	Panola	Elliott's Mills	J A Payne, J A Thornton, G H Jones, S D Pollard	R G Hewlett	Third	21	10	...	10	1	...	102
Mt Gilead	Yallobusha	Water Valley	Eld J J Sawyer, S Hale	J J Sawyer	2d and 4th	8	10	1	4	2	...	102
Bynum's Creek	Panola	Water Valley	Eld R Fowler, G O Reynolds,* T A Mills	T R Williams	Fourth	1	4	...	5	3	1	41
Eureka	Panola	Elliott's Mills	S P Woodruff, E G Leigh, S R Lamb	H B Haywood	Second	...	3	...	4	...	...	23
Yocona	Lafayette	Taylor's Depot	Eld T R Williams, H W Rockett	J B Gambrell	Second	5	4	1	16	...	...	57
Water Valley	Yallobusha	Water Valley	Eld W Dupuy, C Crosby, M J Seamans	W Dupuy	Not given	10	11	2	20	5	...	137

*Absent without leave.

1039

PARTIAL CATALOGUE

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50 Volume Library, No. 2	8 00
100 Volume Library, No. 1	16 00
100 Volume Library, No. 2	16 00
Baptist Question Book, Volume 1, (A. C. Dayton)	25
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Myrtle Question Book, (J. M. Weaver)	25
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Child's Question Book, Part 1, (B. Manly, Jr.) per doz	1 00
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Sunday School Songster, paper cover, per doz	2 00
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SEND FOR DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE.

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Oxford Baptist Association

HELD WITH THE

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH,

IN LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISS.,

On October 2d. 3rd and 4th. 1874.

Henrietta Mod, 2

MEMPHIS:
E. G. TODD, PRINTER AND BINDER, 15 COURT STREET.
1874.